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# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Office of Information



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# USDA Offices

1. Chart showing the location of USDA Offices in Claremont, New Hampshire before and after the consolidation. DN-544



# Consolidate.

Farmers are now receiving "one-stop" service from U. S. Department of Agriculture agencies in more than half the States and counties across the Nation.

This has come about through an effort initiated in February 1951 by Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan to consolidate the field agencies of the Department -- to get all USDA agencies in the States and counties housed under a common roof.

The purpose of the consolidation is to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in the Department's service to farm people and others. The aim is

to make it as simple and convenient as possible for farmers to find help and advice in planning and carrying out their farm operations and improving their productivity. Greater results in conservation and increased production will also be achieved for each dollar of appropriated funds through increased coordination and effectiveness in agricultural programs. The plan also carries out some of the proposals of the Hoover Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government.

The consolidation program applies to all USDA agencies, and the final objective is to house all Federal agricultural

agencies in the same building in every State and county. Initial effort was concentrated on bringing together offices of the Production and Marketing Administration, Soil Conservation Service, and the Farmers Home Administration in order to coordinate conservation activities as quickly as possible. New Hampshire recently became the first State to achieve 100 percent consolidation at both State and county levels.

As of September 15, State offices of USDA agencies were housed together in 24 States. In an additional 5 States, consolidation had been authorized and space was being sought or prepared. In the remaining 19 States current lack of suitable office space or geographical considerations make consolidation impossible for the present.

On the county level, USDA agency offices have now actually been combined in 1770 counties, or 59 percent of the more than 3,000 agricultural counties



2. A combined foyer and waiting room serves all Louisiana State offices of USDA agencies in their new building at Alexandria. N-12123



3. State offices housed under one roof in Des Moines, Iowa, enjoy the convenience of a common conference room. N-12008

having USDA agency offices. This number can be expected to rise steadily as plans progress to bring offices together in many more areas.

Consolidation of office space provides opportunities for cooperative arrangements which improve efficiency and effect economy. Offices housed in the same building can share space, services, and equipment, such as conference rooms, mimeographing facilities, storage space, etc. They can also make joint use of personnel to man the phones, receive visitors, take messages, and answer questions.

Consolidation of office space is leading to a new cooperation among agricultural agencies in giving farmers greater help and service in their efforts to conserve their soil and achieve greater productivity. The goal to provide farmers with efficient "one-stop" service in every State and county in the United States is being pursued aggressively.



4. In the consolidated State offices in Richmond, Va., one mimeograph operation serves all agencies. 4-P-Va.



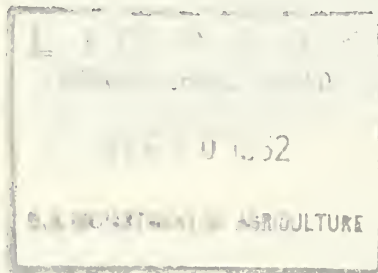
5. State offices of FHA, PMA, SCS, and FCIC are served by one receptionist and switchboard operator in their combined quarters at Syracuse, N. Y. N-12021



6. State officials of PMA, FHA, SCS, and FCIC meet frequently in their consolidated quarters in Richmond, Virginia. 18-P-Va.



7. One sign directs farmers to the Sullivan County offices of USDA agencies in Claremont, New Hampshire. N-12016



8. New York State offices of FHA, PMA, FCIC and SCS present a united front in Syracuse. N-12042



8x10 glossy photographs of this series are free to writers and editors on request to the Press Service, Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.